

MEMORIAL
OF THE
LEGISLATURE OF MISSISSIPPI,

PRAYING

The cession of certain lands for the improvement of the Big Black river.

MARCH 22, 1848.

Referred to the Committee on Public Lands, and ordered to be printed.

A MEMORIAL of the legislature of the State of Mississippi to the Congress of the United States now in session, praying the cession of certain public lands for the improvement of the navigation of Big Black river.

Whereas the permanent improvement of the navigation of Big Black river is a subject of the highest degree of interest to a large portion of Mississippi, and especially to those counties immediately contiguous to the stream; and whereas the legislature of the State of Mississippi feel a deep interest on the subject, and desire to take such measures as will manifest to the Congress of the United States the fact of its importance, to the end that this State may obtain such aid to accomplish the work as it may be in the power of that honorable body to grant; and whereas that on both banks of the river, from the highest navigable point to its mouth, the lands are covered with immense forests of timber, but are rendered comparatively valueless from an almost continual inundation during the winter and spring months, but, by levees and improvement of the navigation of the river, might be made valuable; that said lands have been subject to entry at the minimum price for a number of years, yet very few of them have been taken up, and unless measures are taken to reclaim them they will in all probability remain thus for a succession of years, except that they will depreciate in value, owing to the amount of timber that is annually taken from them: Therefore,

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Mississippi, That our Senators in the Congress of the United States be and they are hereby instructed, and the Representatives requested, to use their best exertions to procure the passage of an act donating to the State of Mississippi a number of alternate sections of the public lands of the United States in the vicinity and swamp of Big Black river, in the State of Mississippi, as may be deemed sufficient for the purpose, to be used as a fund by the said State of Mississippi, in such manner as may be designated by an act of the said State legislature, for the great object of improving the navigation of Big Black river to the highest point of practicable navigation.

Tippin & Streeper, printers.

Be it further resolved, That the governor of this State is hereby requested, immediately on the passage of this memorial and resolutions by the legislature, to transmit copies of the same to our Senators and Representatives in the Congress of the United States.

JOHN J. McRAE,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
DABNEY LIPSCOMB,
President of the Senate.

Approved February 19, 1848.

J. W. MATTHEWS.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

I, Samuel Stamps, secretary of state of the State of Mississippi, do hereby certify that the foregoing writing on the first page of this sheet contains a true, correct, and an exact copy of a memorial of the legislature of the State of Mississippi, entitled "A memorial of the legislature of the State of Mississippi to the Congress of the United States now in session, praying the cession of certain public lands for the improvement of the navigation of Big Black river," approved 19th February, 1848, of which it purports to be a transcript.

In testimony whereof, I do hereunto subscribe my name,
and affix the great seal of the State of Mississippi, the 10th March, 1848.

SAMUEL STAMPS,
Secretary of State.